

fact sheet



Reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act

Issue: Saltwater Angler Registration

Overview:

The recreational saltwater fishing industry is valued at approximately \$30 billion annually. Maintaining healthy fish stocks is critical to maintaining the economic health of this marine angling industry. In order to continue to improve management of marine fisheries, it is essential to obtain more complete recreational fishing data. The President's Ocean Action Plan acknowledged the importance of accurately counting America's saltwater anglers to improve federal fisheries management. Unfortunately, the existing state-based system of fishing licenses is incomplete, hampering enumeration of this important user group and subsequent collection of angler information for fisheries management.

The President's Ocean Action Plan directs NOAA to work with the States, Fishery Management Councils, Interstate Fisheries Commissions, sportfishing communities, and other Federal agencies to: 1) harmonize data collection from existing saltwater fishing licenses, and 2) develop a draft proposal for mechanisms to complete the existing State-based saltwater fishing license network or propose appropriate alternatives that would improve fisheries management, especially in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone.

Proposal:

The Administration's Magnuson-Stevens Act reauthorization proposal would create a national angler database to improve data collection. NOAA would defer to state licensing/registration programs where those programs exist, as long as they collect the necessary information. However, if the state does not have an appropriate program in place, NOAA will create a registration program. Fees collected by NOAA to administer the database would be sent to a dedicated fund to support fisheries management.

Purpose:

The Administration's proposal includes a national saltwater angler registry, which will help to improve the management of recreational fisheries. Knowing who fishes and where they fish will advance our scientific assessments and management of the resource, ensuring healthy stocks that can support continued angling.

NOAA supports states' prerogative to gather information regarding local fisheries. NOAA is committed to collaborating with state fishery managers and scientists to establish this crucial national data collection system.